

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 PC-01 AID-05 OPR-01 A-01 NIC-01 IO-10

SY-04 OC-01 CCO-00 /075 W

----- 035713

P 260840Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3047

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ASMARA SITUATION REPORT

REF A. ASMARA 986; B. ASMARA 988

1. IL QUOTIDIANO ERITREA OF 26 DEC CARRIED AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE DIRG OF THE NORTH. IT REPORTED THAT ON EVENING OF 23 DEC SEVEN PEOPLE DIED (INCLUDING ONE WOMAN) AND THREE WERE WOUNDED (INCLUDING ONE WOMAN) AS RESULT OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS. THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED THE DEATHS TO THE PASSIVE ATTITUDE OF THE GENERAL POPULATION TO OUTLAWS AND THE LACK OF COOPERATION GIVEN SECURITY FORCES AND THE ARMED FORCES BY THE POPULATION. COMMENT: POPULAR OPINION IN ASMARA BELIEVES THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMITTED THE MURDERS. REPORTS INDICATE THAT SOME OF THE VICTIMS WERE STRANGLED. SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING HELD UNDER ARREST FROM THE INCIDENT ON 22 DEC. THIS MORNING SOLDIERS ARE ADMINISTERING HAIRCUTS TO ANYONE WITH HAIR THEY CONSIDER TOO LONG.

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IN PRESENT ENVIRONMENT OF FEAR, REPORTS OF PEOPLE DEAD AND MISSING

ARE RUNNING RAMPANT. GIVEN TENOR OF DIRG ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ERITREANS, OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS OF EVENTS AND CASUALTIES SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE.

2. IL QUOTIDIANO ERITREA OF 26 DEC. CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON THE VISIT OF BG BERHANE TEFERRA, ETHIOPIAN POLICE COMMISSIONER, TO UNITS OF THE ERITREAN COMMANDO POLICE ON 25 DEC.

3. ASMARA IS VERY TENSE. WHILE OFFICIAL CURFEW IS 2400 TO 0500, OVER HALF OF PEOPLE ON STREETS AFTER 2000 ARE SECURITY FORCES. SCATTERED SHOOTING AFTER DARK IS BECOMING THE NORM FOR ASMARA. ASMARA POLICE WHO NORMALLY PROVIDE SECURITY OUTSIDE CONGEN COMPOUND HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY SOLDIERS.

PERRY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740374-0912
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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